2 laser printers, 3 type setters, and 3 day light processors besides 103 Nos. video display terminals. This amount includes expenditure on maintenance of DTP Unit of the Press (comprising of 12 terminals, 4 laser printers, one scanner, one set of intelligent hub and one image setter) which has been included in the AMC of PTS System-6 since June, 1998.

(b) Most of the terminals of PTS System-6 were being used continuously as per job requirement and availability of staff. Only recently (i.e. since Oct., 2001), 50 terminals of this system have gone out of order due to failure of hard disk drive/Disc pack.

The PTS System-6 along with the DTP system are entrusted with urgent time bound Parliamentary jobs and the priority is given to quick processing of these jobs. As such both the PTS system and DTP system are put to work simultaneously. It is, therefore, not possible to maintain record of terminalwise, production data. All these terminals are connected to the PTS system and act as a unit, therefore, terminalwise utilization has no meaning. The audit has been apprised about this on 9.8.2001.

(c) The annual maintenance contract for this system has been awarded to M/s APM Sales Corporation, who are the exclusive representative of the manufacturer of PTS System-6 i.e. M/s Lino type of U.K. The annual maintenance contracts have been awarded only after following the codal formalities of open tender system and with the approval of the competent authority and with the concurrence of finance. Therefore, the question of unprofessional monitoring and existence of any nexus does not arise.

(d) In view of (b) and (c) above the question does not arise.

Levy of user charges by States

603. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked States to levy user charges as part of an exercise to help States to augment resources for undertaking urban infrastructure projects;

(b) whether this levy of user charges is a precondition for accessing Central aid for urban reforms; and

(c) if so, the aims of this scheme and the objectives for which it is designed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Urban Development is a State subject. It is, therefore, for the States to levy user charges to augment resources for undertaking urban infrastructure projects. However, in order to accelerate the pace of sustainable urban development, Central Government announced the following new tools:—

(i) Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF).

(ii) City Challenge Fund (CCF).

(iii) Pooled Finance Development Scheme (PFDS).

URIF has been set up to provide reform linked assistance to states in the following areas:—

(i) Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act at the State level by Resolution;

(ii) Rationalization of Stamp Duty in phases to bring it down to no more than 5% by the end of the Tenth Plan period;

(iii) Reform of Rent Control Laws to remove rent control so as to stimulate private investment in rental housing.

(iv) Introduction of computerized processes of registration;

(v) Reform of Property Tax so that it may become a major source of revenue of urban local bodies, and arrangements for its effective implementation so that collection efficiency reaches at least 85% by the end of 10% Plan period;

(vi) Levy of reasonable user charges by Urban Local Bodies with the objective that full cost of Operation & Maintenance is collected by the end of the Tenth Plan period; and

(vii) Introduction of double entry system of accounting in urban local bodies.

CCF is an incentive based facility that will support cities to fund transitional costs of moving towards sustainable & creditworthy institutional systems of municipal management & service delivery. It will assist in the partial financing of the cost of developing an economic reform programme & financially viable projects to be undertaken by urban local bodies.

PFDS is meant to provide credit enhancement to assist local bodies to access market borrowing on a creditworthy basis.

Status of AUWSP in Andhra Pradesh

604. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of review meetings of Central authorities with concerned State authorities during the last three years to review the progress of AUWSP in the State; and

(c) the details of the outcome of such meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns of less than 20,000 population as per 1991 Census, out of 56 eligible towns in Andhra Pradesh, 7 DPRs have been approved at a total project cost of Rs. 1494.94 lakhs and Central share of Rs. 747.20 lakhs has been released to the States Government.

(b) and (c) During the last three years incuding current year, seven review meetings under the Chairmanship of Secretary (UD) were held where in the State Secretaries in charge of urban water supply including Andhra Pradesh were impressed to submit new schemes for approval under AUWSP and to complete ongoing schemes in a time bound manner.

Construction of Houses under New Housing and Habitat Policy

605. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had formulated a new Housing and Habitat Policy in 1998 as per which two million additional dwelling units every year were to be constructed;

(b) whether the two million dwelling units have been constructed every year;